

THE BUILDINGS OF MOREFA BORTH

- the Marsh Harbour

Ceredigion



That part of Borth Village on a pebble bank with the sea on one side and the Cors Fochno marsh some reclaimed and the railway on the other. In the distance is the River Dyfi. Photograph Michael Lewis

Photographs and History by BERYL LEWIS

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GRASMERE Morfa Borth

Behind the terrace of ten houses on the east side of the road at the very north end of the village. Built after 1911 but by 1925. Formerly called Ty Twt, the Welsh for a neat little house.



ABOVE Grasmere in 2015. The front of the bungalow faces west.

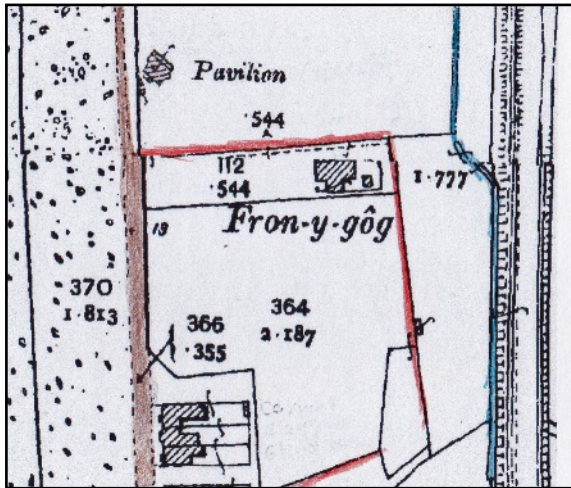
A single storey building like this was suitable to stand on the reclaimed peat bog. It is likely that it has a platform beneath it to distribute its weight so it 'floats' on the soft ground. The building has a hipped roof parallel to the lane and has an extension on the north front which has a gable end with the front door. There are two slender brick chimneys each with one chimneypot (flue). The date of building suggests its rendered walls are brick. It has two dormer windows in the roof at the back. All the back windows look out across the railway line, across reclaimed pasture and across the Cors Fochno to the hills. Facing the track or lane in front is a garage for the bungalow.

The ground on which Grasmere stands was the huge Cors fochno peat bog. It was called 'waste' by the Crown Manor who owned it as it was no use for farming. The road had been there for centuries, it was used in the twelfth century and was a turnpike road by the 1770s.



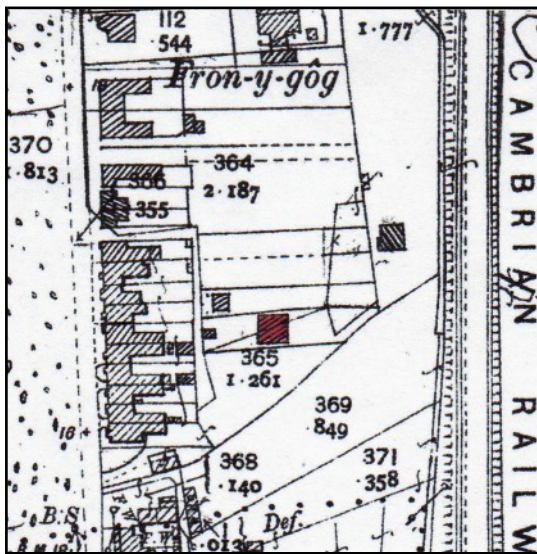
It led to a ferry from Ynyslas to Aberdovey and was a quick way to North Wales.

LEFT The house stands on a five acre field called an 'allotment' which was number 110 on a map of 1848. Pryse Pryse of the Gogerddan Estate received it after the enclosure of the 'waste' and used it as pasture. Number 93 to the north was the property of the Jones family of the Gwynfryn Estate at Taliesin and had become an eighteen hole golf course before Grasmere was built. (Tithe Apportionments Map, Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn, Henllys Township, online at CYNEFIN, NLW).



In 1891 Pryse Pryse sold some of Number 110 to Elsie Cecil Wright, the wife of a Birmingham manufacturer of screws and a keen golfer. She had the bungalow Fron-y-gôg built on a strip of it, and had four acres of agricultural land as well. (Deeds to Morlais, private collection)

LEFT In 1904 there were no other buildings on the part of Number 110 where Grasmere stands today but some of the houses in the terrace had already been built. The red line shows the boundary of the old Field 110. (Detail from the 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map revised in 1904 and published in 1905, Cardiganshire III.10)



LEFT The Council used the 1905 map and drew in newly built houses - this map dates from after 1935 because Brockhill had been built in the garden of Fron-y-gôg. Grasmere is coloured red. (Map Ceredigion Archives)

In 1925 paying the rates for a bungalow and garage called then Ty Twt was R. Boyd Robson.

In 1934 paying the rates was Boyd J. Robson.

In 1938 and 1949 the bungalow had a new name, 'Grasmere' and paying the rates was David Hughes Rees. With votes for it in the General Election of 1945 were Annie B. Rees and Mildred

N. Rees. David H.Rees paid the rates in 1957.

In 1963 paying the rates had been David A. Rees but was then Mrs Rees. Annie and David Hugh Rees had votes for the house that year.

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gan/by Beryl Lewis
[cyf/ref ADX/1629]

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Houses of Borth consists of over 350 histories of individual buildings, lavishly illustrated with photographs, maps and documents. All the files are available from our website: <https://www.archifdy-ceredigion.org.uk/tairborth.php>

We would like to thank Beryl for her kindness in letting us share her work with the widest possible audience.

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